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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration, as an annex to the present note, the study undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme on the feasibility of developing a technical assistance programme for small island developing States to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation for sustainable development. The study was requested in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was agreed upon at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994.

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ANNEX

A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS/TAP)

Prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

United Nations Development Programme

September 1994

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present study was prepared in response to paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994. Paragraph 106 requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to prepare, in consultation with small island developing States and relevant subregional institutions, a feasibility study on a technical assistance programme for small island developing States (SIDS/TAP) in order to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation.

In the preparation of the study, extensive consultations were held with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) core group; the small island developing States; relevant subregional institutions; the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat; and various divisions within UNDP; and, more importantly, in two subregional workshops held in Fiji from 22 to 23 August and in Barbados from 23 to 24 August 1994, which resulted in a broad consensus on the content and orientation of SIDS/TAP.

In essence, SIDS/TAP is seen as providing the framework for technical cooperation among the small island developing States and as a mechanism for operationalizing the Programme of Action adopted at the Global Conference. In particular, SIDS/TAP is directed at the implementation of the Programme of Action in the 14 areas identified as collective priorities for the sustainable development of the small island developing States. The present study recognizes that among its priority initial activities, SIDS/TAP must address the capacities and needs assessments that must be undertaken in relation to the Programme of Action. Integral to this assessment is the development of a directory of existing technical capacities and expertise in the small island developing States. In the study, a number of principles are identified in respect of the management of SIDS/TAP, namely: (a) it should be managed by the small island developing States themselves; (b) it should not duplicate existing technical assistance programmes but should build upon such programmes; and (c) it should not result in the creation of new institutions. Finally, it is emphasized that SIDS/TAP and the Small Island Developing States Information Network (SIDS/NET), for which a feasibility study has also been prepared by UNDP, should be integrally linked, since SIDS/NET should provide a useful vehicle to facilitate the implementation of SIDS/TAP.

The Programme of Action also envisages the appointment of SIDS/TAP focal points at the national level, which the present report suggests could be the existing technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) focal points; the identification of regional focal points, whose functions would need to be clearly identified; the establishment at the interregional level of a body to provide policy and operational guidance in the implementation of SIDS/TAP, which the report suggests could be the existing AOSIS core group. At the international level, the Special Unit for TCDC (SU/TCDC), which has been designated to coordinate UNDP's follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action, is considered to be well placed to assist the small island developing States in the implementation of SIDS/TAP.

It is proposed that SIDS/TAP should be implemented on a phased basis, with a two-year start-up period. Based on the identification of the specific technical cooperation needs to implement the Programme of Action, the carrying out of a needs' and capacities' matching exercise, an estimated 500 exchanges among small island developing States, the preparation of a directory of expertise available in those countries, and other related activities, the total external funding requirement is projected at US$ 4.2 million for the two-year start-up period.

In order to meet the external financing requirements, it is proposed that a SIDS/TAP fund could be established to be managed either by the small island developing States themselves or by UNDP. A number of other funding possibilities are identified, including an increase in the resources allocated to SU/TCDC.

The report concludes with a number of recommendations directed at the small island developing States, the United Nations system and other multilateral and bilateral donors.

I. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

1. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994, had its genesis in chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1/ and was a major follow-up action by the international community to UNCED. The convening of the Global Conference had been called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992.

2. The commitment of the international community to small island developing States, as reflected in chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21, stemmed from, among other things, recognition that small island developing States are a special case from both environment and development standpoints because they are ecologically fragile and vulnerable and because their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets place them at an economic disadvantage and prevent them from achieving economies of scale.

3. The Global Conference adopted the Barbados Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. 2/ These instruments articulate goals and operational activities for the attainment of sustainable development for small island developing States and provide the basis for follow-up to the Conference within the framework of UNCED and specifically Agenda 21 relative to small island developing States. The Programme of Action outlines 14 priority areas and defines a number of actions and policies for the short, medium and long term related to environment and development that should be undertaken by small island developing States in cooperation with the international community. The Conference provided an opportunity for Governments of small island developing States and their development partners to assess their achievements in environment protection and natural resources management as key contributors to sustainable development in the post-UNCED period.

4. Specifically, at the international level, the Programme of Action identifies UNDP's support in three areas for follow-up activities in keeping with UNDP's mandate for capacity-building. The paragraphs and specific references in the Programme of Action are the following:

> "105. UNDP should be invited to coordinate a feasibility study in collaboration with the small island developing States and relevant subregional organizations for the implementation of a small island developing States information network (SIDS/NET). Such a study should be completed before the commencement of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly;
>
> "106. UNDP should be invited to coordinate a feasibility study in collaboration with small island developing States and relevant subregional organizations, to develop a small island developing States technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP) to promote inter- and intraregional cooperation on sustainable development. An integral component of SIDS/TAP should be the compilation of a directory of institutions and scholars with recognized expertise in the sustainable development of small island

developing States. The study and the initial compilation of the directory should be completed before the commencement of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly;

"...

"126. As set forth in Agenda 21, UNDP should continue to carry out its mandate as the lead agency in organizing United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, and in fostering the United Nations collective thrust in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action through its network of field offices."

5. With regard to paragraph 105 of the Programme of Action, UNDP has prepared a feasibility study for SIDS/NET as a separate document (A/49/414).

6. With regard to paragraph 126, UNDP immediately responded at the Global Conference with the approval of two Capacity 21 regional programmes for the small island developing States of the Pacific and Caribbean. In addition to these newly approved programmes, UNDP is supporting other ongoing activities related to capacity-building and to the broader issue of sustainable human development. Some of these activities are described in chapter VII below.

7. The present study has been prepared in response to the mandate given to UNDP in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action. It is presented as a framework for technical cooperation among small island developing States. The ideas and conclusions contained in the study are the result of the adoption of a methodology for carrying out the study that emphasized a participatory approach. The process of consultations involved:

(a) The AOSIS core group on SIDS/TAP and SIDS/NET;

(b) Information obtained through questionnaires completed by the small island developing States and relevant subregional institutions;

(c) Consultations with non-governmental organizations in small island developing States, spearheaded by UNDP Sustainable Development Advisers;

(d) Preparation of a concept paper on SIDS/TAP;

(e) UNDP in-house consultations with the relevant bureaux and with the Sustainable Development Networking Programme, which prepared the SIDS/NET study;

(f) The Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat;

(g) Regional consultation workshops for small island developing States.

8. A team of experts was assembled by SU/TCDC to assist in the preparation of the study. To gather the relevant information for SIDS/TAP, two questionnaires were prepared, one for the small island developing countries and the other for regional and subregional organizations in those countries. In addition, a

concept paper on SIDS/TAP was prepared by the consultants and disseminated at the two regional consultations. While it was originally intended that the team should visit as many small island developing countries as possible, it was not possible to do so because of time limitations. It was therefore decided, in consultation with AOSIS, that small island developing countries should be involved in consultations through the convening of regional workshops. The synergy of the regional consultations had the advantage of promoting a cross-fertilization of ideas which resulted in agreement on SIDS/TAP and its operationalization.

9. Two regional seminars were held, one at Nadi, Fiji, from 22 to 23 August 1994, for the Pacific and Indian Ocean countries and Singapore, and the other at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 23 to 24 August 1994, for the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Atlantic countries.

10. The questionnaires helped representatives of small island developing States, as well as institutions, to prepare for the regional consultations by focusing attention on a number of key issues, and provided a framework for discussions at the seminars. Data obtained from the questionnaires were also instrumental in initiating work on the compilation of a directory of the expertise available in the small island developing States, as called for under paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action.

11. Throughout the preparation of the study, consultations were held with the AOSIS core group, which represents the small island developing States at the United Nations. The inputs provided by this group were useful in the preparation of the study.

II. CONTEXTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR SIDS/TAP AND ITS INTERRELATIONSHIP WITH SIDS/NET AND CAPACITY-BUILDING IN RELATION TO THE PROGPAMME OF ACTION

12. In its request for UNDP's follow-up under the Programme of Action, the Global Conference sought direct support for the development of an information system (SIDS/NET), for a technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP) and for assistance in capacity-building. Although the relevant documentation has been prepared separately, the three activities are intended to be closely interlinked substantively in terms of implementation. Together they provide for the operationalization of the goals of the Programme of Action and the Barbados Declaration. The SU/TCDC will coordinate activities relative to UNDP's overall follow-up to the Global Conference.

13. SIDS/TAP, as outlined in the Programme of Action, is intended to facilitate inter- and intraregional collaboration and cooperation among small island developing States. The participants at the regional consultations examined a number of issues in considering SIDS/TAP. Considerable attention was paid to such matters as reaching a common understanding and broad consensus on SIDS/TAP and the institutional and financial arrangements involved in setting it up. SIDS/TAP was understood to be a technical cooperation framework for the small island developing States in helping to operationalize the Programme of Action. Consequently, although the primary focus of SIDS/TAP, and indeed its

raison d'être, is to identify specific technical cooperation activities in implementation of the Programme of Action, the present study focuses on the viability of setting up SIDS/TAP to do this work.

14. A major concern expressed during the consultation process was the underutilization of specific expertise in small island developing States in existing technical assistance programmes and ways to effectively harness that expertise. The countries noted that despite the availability of considerable expertise in some areas in small island developing States, existing technical cooperation mechanisms were not fully utilizing those skills. To be efficiently executed, SIDS/TAP must have a facility for developing information systems peculiar to small island developing States. The participants agreed that, as an integral part of SIDS/TAP, the establishment of a directory containing information on expertise and capacities in the small island developing States was a critical requirement. SIDS/NET will play an important role in ensuring connectivity among networks in the small island developing States.

15. The regional consultations endorsed the view that SIDS/TAP and SIDS/NET are complementary and that SIDS/NET is a vehicle for accessing information on the capacities and needs of the small island developing States in implementing the Programme of Action. Moreover, it is believed that a well-functioning SIDS/NET could result in economies in SIDS/TAP's operations through networking and accessing information in the public domain. SIDS/NET, the two regional capacity-building programmes for the small island developing States of the South Pacific and the Caribbean, approved under UNDP funding at the Global Conference, and other activities supported by the United Nations system should also support the overarching role of SIDS/TAP in achieving the objectives of the Programme of Action.

16. SIDS/TAP should be seen as helping to realize the commitment of small island developing States to the follow-up to UNCED. Its implementation would involve linkages with activities already under way in support of capacity-building in relation to Agenda 21. Also related to those activities are SIDS/TAP's linkages with the international community with respect to the major issues impacting sustainable human development and with Governments and other development partners in small island developing States, in such areas as population, gender issues, poverty alleviation, growth with social equity and good governance.

III. JUSTIFICATION FOR SIDS/TAP

17. The representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations and the international community who met in August 1994 in Barbados and Fiji to discuss the framework for SIDS/TAP, articulated the need for a mechanism for technical cooperation among small island developing States that would facilitate the exchange of relevant expertise and know-how among them. It was emphasized that SIDS/TAP should not be seen as a new technical assistance programme as such but rather as a framework for technical cooperation among small island developing States that would render existing programmes more effective and enhance capacity-building through the transfer of knowledge, expertise and know-how,

including the sharing of traditional practices among small island developing States within ongoing development cooperation programmes.

18. In terms of elaborating specific activities of SIDS/TAP in implementation of the Programme of Action, both regional consultations considered that, as a starting-point, it would be necessary to examine existing agreements and conventions involving small island developing States in the priority areas of the Programme. It was felt that, for the most part, existing conventions and development cooperation programmes were not sufficiently sensitive to the small island developing States in terms of adequately utilizing personnel in those countries and fostering their self-reliance by building on local capacities and accessing relevant experiences and lessons in them. There were critical gaps and inadequate coordination under existing technical assistance programmes in the small island developing States which SIDS/TAP could address. The benefits that would accrue to the countries, through SIDS/TAP should therefore be seen in terms of the relevance, cost effectiveness and sustainability of their development endeavours.

19. The management of a technical assistance programme for the small island developing States was considered to be the primary responsibility of the countries themselves. They will undertake a review of ongoing development cooperation activities within the priorities of the Programme of Action with a view to ensuring that those activities have a greater impact in their efforts to promote sustainable development. The substantive responsibility for the assessment of needs and capacities in this regard will also be undertaken by the small island developing States themselves. The participants at the regional consultations felt that in implementing SIDS/TAP, South-South cooperation and the TCDC modality should be utilized, to the extent possible, in order to promote cost-effective exchanges. Other modalities aimed at tapping into the pool of expatriate expertise of the small island developing States will be explored to augment their resource base for sustainable development. In addition, triangular arrangements involving third-party donors would be fully explored.

IV. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF SIDS/TAP

20. The objectives of SIDS/TAP, as articulated in the Programme of Action, are the following:

(a) To strengthen inter- and intraregional cooperation between small island developing States through the exchange of knowledge and experiences in order to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action;

(b) To provide a mechanism to facilitate the promotion and utilization of expertise, experiences and knowledge from and among small island developing States;

(c) To provide a pool of expertise relevant to the sustainable development of small island developing States, which could be used as a basis for promoting technical cooperation among them.

21. SIDS/TAP is a mechanism designed to facilitate technical cooperation exchanges among small island developing States, utilizing, where practicable, the TCDC modality, and also involving third-party financing as necessary. An essential component of SIDS/TAP is the preparation of a directory of expertise and the matching of needs of small island developing States with their development priorities, taking into consideration the Programme of Action and Agenda 21. To this end, SIDS/TAP would address specific issues and facilitate solutions in areas relevant to the achievement of the sustainable development of small island developing States in keeping with the Programme of Action.

22. It was recognized that the elaboration of the SIDS/TAP programme would require the identification of specific activities in support of the various components of the Programme of Action. Assessments at the country, subregional and regional levels would be required to determine SIDS/TAP interventions relating to the Programme of Action.

23. The two regional consultation workshops concluded that the substantive programme activities of SIDS/TAP should evolve largely from existing technical assistance programmes in the areas outlined in the Programme of Action and should constitute a framework for technical cooperation among small island developing countries that is for those specific countries. As indicated above, this would be one of the priority tasks of SIDS/TAP.

24. It was emphasized that SIDS/TAP should be country-driven so as effectively to match the provision of technical assistance to the sustainable development needs identified as priority areas by the small island developing States themselves within the general framework of the Programme of Action.

25. SIDS/TAP should assist small island developing States to enhance their technical capacity and capability by focusing on human resource development in the pursuit of self-reliance and providing technical assistance in a cost-effective manner. SIDS/TAP should therefore focus on the sharing of experiences, expertise and technology among small island developing countries for their own benefit.

26. In its operation, the small island developing States/technical assistance programme would continuously seek opportunities with bilateral and multilateral programmes, including international financing institutions, and, where possible, would be used as an important instrument in increasing the use of the expertise of the small island developing countries in those programmes. Concern was voiced that SIDS/TAP should not, however, result in the reduction of development assistance flows to the small island developing countries.

27. Interventions carried out through SIDS/TAP would, however, be largely on a South-South basis to accommodate the needs and priorities of the small island developing States and to offer them unique opportunities to stimulate the development and application of island-appropriate, indigenous technologies.

28. An integral part of SIDS/TAP is the development of a directory of sources of expertise in the small island developing countries. The importance of having a directory of existing technical capacities of those countries was emphasized at the regional consultations. The directory should, in fact, take the form of

a computerized database and information system capable of continuous updating. Such a system would involve an adaptation of SU/TCDC's Information Referral System (INRES), which provides data on the institutional capacities of developing countries. The responses to the questionnaires received by UNDP from Governments and subregional organizations have provided information on expertise available at the national and subregional level. INRES has begun work on the compilation of a directory of institutions and scholars with recognized expertise in the sustainable development of small island developing countries. However, to address the particular needs of those countries, INRES will be adapted to include information on both individuals and institutions.

29. SIDS/TAP would promote effective linkages among all stakeholders in seeking to utilize the skills, capacities and expertise of local communities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, universities, and expatriates from small island developing States now resident in other countries.

30. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations is an essential aspect of SIDS/TAP in assisting small island developing countries in the promotion of sustainable human development. SIDS/TAP would benefit from the design of programmes that can draw upon the advocacy role of non-governmental organizations as well as their participatory activities at the grass-roots level which can have a direct impact on local communities. The contribution of non-governmental organizations to building local capacity would constitute an important element of the programme and would provide the enabling environment for people-centred development, as envisaged under SIDS/TAP.

V. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

31. A number of key principles agreed on at the regional consultations would dictate both the nature and form of the institutional and implementation arrangements in regard to SIDS/TAP. In keeping with the idea that SIDS/TAP should be country-driven and managed so as to foster the self-reliance inherent in the SIDS/TAP concept, the location within Governments of national focal points would be of strategic importance. At the regional and interregional levels, the identification of supporting mechanisms to implement SIDS/TAP and a clear definition of their specific functions would also be necessary.

32. The principle of utilizing existing institutions and avoiding duplication in the implementation of SIDS/TAP was emphasized. Existing national, subregional and interregional institutions and organizations, where they already exist, will be fully utilized for their relevant comparative advantages, and in accordance with their various mandates, in support of the Programme of Action.

33. At the national level, focal points are to be designated to promote and coordinate the work of SIDS/TAP within Governments and with other entities, such as non-governmental organizations and local communities. The existing TCDC national focal points already designated in most of the small island developing countries could assume this role but may have to be strengthened. The location and staffing of the SIDS/TAP focal point in government would be critical to its success. In any case, the national focal points will need to be accessible and should be able to facilitate in-country requests for SIDS/TAP assistance from

all concerned parties, including local communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, the media and other stakeholders. Procedures for requesting assistance under SIDS/TAP should also be kept brief and simple.

34. As SIDS/TAP will have both an interregional and intraregional orientation, its resources and activities will be deployed in a coordinated and coherent manner with those institutions already providing technical, financial and other support to small island developing countries to minimize operational costs. Underpinning the inter- and intraregional dimension of SIDS/TAP are the networking arrangements through the directory database of the small island developing countries; through SIDS/NET; and through existing multilateral and bilateral regional and interregional programmes. Moreover, SIDS/TAP will promote effective partnerships among all stakeholders by tapping available capacities within the small island developing countries, viz. grass-roots organizations, non-governmental organization communities, and private and public-sector institutions, as well as meeting the needs of these stakeholders. SIDS/TAP will continuously seek opportunities and linkages for collaboration with bilateral and multilateral programmes, including the international financial institutions, as appropriate.

35. At the subregional or regional level, existing institutions that have the capacity to provide technical support to SIDS/TAP will be utilized as focal points. However, where regional institutions exist that do not have the capacity to provide the technical and other back-stopping support, the SIDS/TAP facilities could be used for institution-strengthening purposes on the basis of twinning arrangements.

36. The regional focal points of the small island developing countries are expected to play a facilitating role in support of the national focal points in the maintenance of regional databases of consultants and by undertaking specific activities best handled at the regional level. However, the regional focal point arrangements would need to be further elaborated by the Governments of countries themselves.

37. Another important principle is the decentralized approach to the implementation of SIDS/TAP. Small island developing countries may directly implement activities agreed upon among themselves, based on a matching of capacities/needs and resources as, indeed, some already do, and would look to SIDS/TAP resources only to fill gaps and as a facilitating mechanism.

38. At the international level, SU/TCDC at UNDP headquarters is well placed to provide support for SIDS/TAP, in view of the latter's TCDC thrust and the catalytic role of the Unit in capacity-strengthening activities to promote the use of the TCDC modality. Moreover, its interface with the various bureaux within UNDP, in terms of UNDP's central role in capacity-building for the implementation of Agenda 21 programmes globally, reinforces SU/TCDC as the entity within UNDP to follow-up the initiative of the small island developing countries. It may however be necessary to review existing arrangements within SU/TCDC to ensure that the SIDS/TAP programmes are appropriately addressed.

VI. ONGOING ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF RELEVANCE TO SIDS/TAP

39. UNDP, in keeping with its commitment to the realization of Agenda 21 and its responsibility for the coordination of the operational follow-up to the Global Conference and support through SIDS/TAP, SIDS/NET and capacity-building, has effected an integration of environment and development through specific programmes and projects carried out at the national, subregional and international levels in support of the sustainable human development of small island developing countries.

40. In addition, assistance has been provided to those countries in respect of the implementation of the various international agreements relative to environment and natural resources management, including the Montreal Protocol, Capacity 21 and the Global Environment Facility. The Sustainable Energy and Environment Division of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support within UNDP has established innovative mechanisms to meet the increasing demands for environment/natural resources related expertise, some of which are already of direct service to small island developing countries. Among these are the two newly approved Capacity 21 funded projects for human resource development in the small island developing countries of the Caribbean and South Pacific and the appointment, within country offices, of Sustainable Development Advisers. SIDS/TAP would be closely linked to these ongoing activities and mechanisms and would be used to enhance their contribution to the development of the small island developing countries.

41. UNDP has designated the SU/TCDC as its coordinating entity for overall follow-up to the Global Conference. Other bureaux would continue to deal with issues and programmes relative to small island developing countries within their particular mandates and work programmes. The UNDP country offices with responsibility for small island developing countries will maintain ongoing activities in support of these countries and will monitor and report on such activities, as well as on the contribution of the international community within the framework of SIDS/TAP.

42. Following are some examples of UNDP-supported activities related to the Programme of Action:

A. Global activities

43. With regard to the integrated management of marine and coastal areas, through the Global Environment Facility, UNDP has funded over $30 million worth of projects relevant to the objectives of Agenda 21.

44. UNDP is cooperating with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the implementation of the Regional Seas Action Plans, which focus on coastal-zone management and the reduction of pollution from land-based sources.

B. Regional activities

45. In the South Pacific region, UNDP assistance has successfully established the technical and managerial capacity of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission in: (a) surveying and managing non-living marine resources within the exclusive economic zones of member countries; (b) providing support in negotiating agreements with bilateral sources for such activities and monitoring their implementation; and (c) undertaking surveys and advising member countries on coastal-area management.

46. Assistance to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme has strengthened its managerial and administrative capacity to effectively fulfil its mandate for the promotion of environmental and sustainable development among its 26 member countries.

47. In the Caribbean region, several ongoing activities are of direct relevance to Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action at the national and regional level.

48. The activities carried out by UNEP's regional coordinating unit in the Caribbean has made a significant contribution to the preservation of the marine environment under the regional seas and oil spillage programmes. UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme has also supported the small island developing countries through such programmes as those on specially protected areas and wildlife; assessment and control of marine pollution; integrated planning and institutional development; and education training and information systems.

VII. TIME-FRAME AND INITIAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SIDS/TAP

49. The regional consultations proposed that SIDS/TAP should be implemented in a phased manner. A start-up phase covering a two-year period was seen as important in view of the fact that certain preparatory activities would need to be initiated, such as the compilation of the directory of existing capacities within the small island developing countries themselves, determination of the specific technical cooperation requirements to implement the Programme of Action and the matching of needs with such capacities within those countries. It was also proposed that the principles agreed on for the implementation of SIDS/TAP should be operationalized and tested within this time-frame.

50. The start-up phase, covering a two-year period, will consist of the following main activities to be undertaken in collaboration with the small island developing countries:

1.	1st - 3rd month	identification and designation of national/subregional focal points of the small island developing countries;
2.	3rd - 5th month	convening of SIDS/TAP national focal points meeting;

3.	1st - 24th month	completion of the directory of institutions and experts/scholars. Modelled after TCDC's INRES, the proposed information on the small island developing States would take the form of a computerized database and information system. (The completed questionnaires received from the small island developing States have enabled SU/TCDC to begin on the system.);
4.	3rd - 7th month	determination of specific technical cooperation requirements to implement the Programme of Action;
5.	3rd - 24th month	assessment of the capacities of small island developing countries to be matched with individual country needs in the context of the Programme of Action and Agenda 21;
6.	18th - 26th month	assessment of the management and reporting arrangements for the SIDS/TAP Fund;
7.	20th - 26th month	monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the agreed implementation arrangements at the national, subregional and international levels including linkage with the parallel development of SIDS/NET and other information sources;
8.	20th - 26th month	monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the collaborative/cooperative partnership arrangements utilized.

51. The start-up phase will be subjected to an in-depth and objective evaluation at the end of the two-year period, and the lessons derived from its implementation will serve to refine the future management and operations of SIDS/TAP.

VIII. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: COST IMPLICATIONS FOR START-UP OPERATIONS OF SIDS/TAP: MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

A. Cost implications for an operational SIDS/TAP

52. Owing to the fact that SIDS/TAP is to be based on South-South and TCDC modalities, the small island developing States are expected, in the first instance, to finance their cooperation activities primarily out of their own national resources, some of which would be contributions-in-kind. These resources would constitute a substantial contribution of the countries themselves to their own development.

53. Exchanges or sharing of knowledge, technology, experience or facilities under SIDS/TAP will generate costs on both sides - the "sending" party and the "receiving" party(ies). On the sending party side, such costs would relate to the salary and time of the public official, or private individual; the costs of

preparatory work, which may include other people's time; printing costs, when reports/studies are required; communication costs, including computer time; and the costs of transportation, which, in the case of small island States, essentially means air travel. Air travel is expected to be the highest cost item in such activities.

54. On the receiving party side, costs would relate to the time dedicated by the public officials or private individuals receiving the training; board and lodging costs of the individual(s) providing the training; transportation; communication costs, including computer time where required; and secretarial and other administrative support costs related to the training activities. These in-country costs would be borne largely by the small island developing countries under the TCDC modality.

55. Typical costs that might result from people-to-people exchanges under SIDS/TAP are given below. These exchanges would result from assessments of capacities in relation to the Programme of Action and the availability of the expertise of the small island developing States to meet these needs. The figures assume 500 such exchanges for at least 35 small island developing countries, with average round-trip air fare per exchange at US$ 2,500. The provision of training and demonstration equipment might be estimated at 20 per cent of air fare costs, and overhead costs at 10 per cent of air fare and equipment costs. Thus, foreign currency costs might be calculated as follows for 500 exchanges in one year:

1. Foreign currency costs (in United States dollars)

Air fare costs ($2,500 X 500)	1 250 000
Training and demonstration equipment (20 per cent of air fare costs)	250 000
Administrative overhead (10 per cent of air fare and equipment costs)	150 000
Total	1 650 000

56. The corresponding Government in-kind contributions for 500 exchanges for one year might be:

2. SIDS in-kind contributions (in United States dollars)

Average salary costs plus allowances for two weeks @ $500/wk X 2 X 500	500 000
Transport ($30/d X 14d X 500)	210 000
Housing/hotel ($50/d X 14d X 500)	350 000
Other costs (communications, computer time, printing) and administrative overhead (10 per cent of salary, transport and housing combined)	106 000
Total	1 166 000

57. The above figures show that, of the total costs related to the people-to-people exchanges, over 40 per cent will be met by in-kind contributions of SIDS. Foreign currency costs relate to foreign currency requirements for air travel to facilitate people-to-people exchanges and are expected to be funded from third-party contributions. A number of low-income small island developing countries will also not be able to fully finance the in-country costs involved in these activities.

B. Financial implications of start-up phase

58. Reference is made to paragraph 50 above outlining the initial activities of SIDS/TAP.

59. Following is an estimate for each of the activities comprising the start-up phase of SIDS/TAP outlined in paragraph 50 above.

Activity	Estimated costs (in United States dollars)
1. Identification and designation of national/subregional focal points of the small island developing States	5 000
2. Convening of SIDS/TAP national focal points meeting	100 000
3. Completion of the directory of institutions and experts/scholars	300 000

	Activity	Estimated costs (in United States dollars)
4.	Determination of specific technical cooperation requirements to implement the Programme of Action	50 000
5.	Assessment of the capacities of small island developing countries to be matched with individual country needs in the context of the Programme of Action and Agenda 21	420 000
6.	Assessment of the management and reporting arrangements for the SIDS/TAP Fund	10 000
7.	Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the agreed implementation arrangements at the national, subregional and international levels including linkage with the parallel development of SIDS/NET and other information sources	15 000
8.	Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the collaborative/cooperative partnership arrangements utilized	15 000
	Total	915 000

60. The amount required to assist the small island developing States in setting up SIDS/TAP is $915,000 for its main activities. This does not include the counterpart costs involved at the national and regional levels associated with staffing focal points. The cost of exchanges over the two-year period for its activities in terms of implementing the SIDS/TAP substantive activities in the Programme of Action is $5,632,000 of which $2,232,000 would be expected as the in-kind contribution from the small island developing countries themselves. Thus, the overall costs for SIDS/TAP for the first two years for set-up and initial activity, some of which could be met from funding available under existing technical assistance programmes, is $6,550,000.

C. Mobilization of resources

61. The actual amount that would be required from external sources to implement the start-up phase would be approximately $4.2 million. To address funding requirements, the regional consultations recommended the establishment of a SIDS/TAP Fund, which would receive contributions from international public or private sources for the purpose of supporting activities under SIDS/TAP. It might be administered by the small island developing States themselves or by UNDP on their behalf. The specific terms in regard to custodial arrangements, reporting requirements and accountability would need to be worked out in greater

detail, but there are examples in which such funds have been entrusted to UNDP management.

62. The regional consultations also reviewed a number of other arrangements that might be more fully explored to mobilize funds for SIDS/TAP, namely:

(i) An increase in the resources made available to SU/TCDC as the coordinator within UNDP for the follow-up to the Global Conference;

(ii) The allocation by UNDP under the relevant regional programmes of resources specifically earmarked for the implementation of SIDS/TAP;

(iii) The allocation by Governments themselves of a percentage of the IPF as core funding for SIDS/TAP;

(iv) The allocation of resources under bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes, including those of non-governmental organizations;

(v) The allocation of core resources from Governments' national budgets and the private sector;

(vi) The creation of other mechanisms, such as financial awards, matching funds and in-kind contributions from Governments.

IX. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

63. The following are the conclusions based on the findings of the various consultations undertaken by UNDP:

(a) The proposed SIDS/TAP, as conceived, appears to be a viable facility to support technical cooperation among small island developing States to operationalize the Programme of Action. It has many positive design features including harnessing the existing capacities of the small island developing States themselves to solve their common development problems. The facility is also to be managed by small island developing countries themselves, partly from their own human and financial resources. In this respect, its implicit goal of self-reliance is consistent with the spirit of sustainable development inherent in Agenda 21 and the Global Conference;

(b) SIDS/NET should be integrally related and supportive of SIDS/TAP. The requirements of SIDS/TAP should influence the design of SIDS/NET;

(c) The institutional and implementation arrangements envisaged for SIDS/TAP will not entail the creation of new structures and entities, but will instead make full use of existing institutions at the national, regional and international levels. In this regard, there will be no duplication of activities, and operational and administrative costs can therefore be minimized;

(d) To start up the SIDS/TAP facility, an initial amount of $735,000 will be required to put in place some of the basic infrastructure to support and sustain it. In addition, there are other costs of approximately $5.6 million related to funding the actual activities engendered in the two-year initial phase. Taking these two figures into account, the total cost for operationalizing SIDS/TAP under phase I is $6.4 million. The amount expected from the international community is approximately $4.2 million;

(e) While some small island developing countries will be able to cover in-country costs, most will not be able to finance the foreign currency costs associated with the people-to-people exchanges that are intended to take place in the context of SIDS/TAP. Moreover, the low-income countries will not be able fully to fund the related in-country costs.

64. On the basis of the conclusions derived from its consultations for this study, UNDP would recommend the following to the parties involved.

B. Recommendations

65. With respect to the Governments of the small island developing States:

(a) The Governments of the small island developing States should identify their national focal points for SIDS/TAP. They should also reach agreement in identifying the regional focal points from existing institutions. Agreement would be required on the final institutional and implementation arrangements that should apply in regard to SIDS/TAP and the necessary commitment to and support of SIDS/TAP to ensure its smooth functioning. In particular, the role of an advisory body, similar to AOSIS, would need a sharper definition by small island developing countries themselves;

(b) The Governments of the small island developing States should also agree on a resource mobilization strategy for SIDS/TAP, and indicate how and through what mechanism the proposed SIDS/TAP Voluntary Fund should be managed.

66. With respect to the United Nations system and donor communities:

(a) The United Nations development system organization should assist the small island developing States in renewing existing activities to ensure they are compatible with the needs and aspirations enunciated in the Programme of Action, in particular with regard to sustainable development;

(b) The United Nations system should ensure operational coordination of the activities foreseen under SIDS/TAP at the country level, through the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and through existing United Nations regional bodies;

(c) In view of the role foreseen for UNDP following UNCED in terms of capacity-building for sustainable development, in particular the role of SU/TCDC in enhancing technical cooperation among developing countries, UNDP as an organization, and SU/TCDC specifically, should provide important support

functions to SIDS/TAP. SU/TCDC might also administer the SIDS/TAP Voluntary Fund on behalf of the SIDS countries.

67. With respect to non-United Nations sources of assistance:

(a) Consideration should be given to providing financial and other support to small island developing States through SIDS/TAP, as it represents an important means to enable those countries to achieve greater self-reliance;

(b) In order to maximize the effectiveness of the increasingly scarce development funds from the national budgets of the small island developing States, assistance programmes of non-governmental organizations should seek to establish linkages with the SIDS/TAP activities envisioned;

(c) Non-governmental organizations should explore innovative ways of participating in the development of the small island developing States on the basis of South-South cooperation.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18), chap. I, annex II.